Message Text

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42.

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO MR FR

SUBJECT: CREATION OF "MAURITANIAN OPPOSITION PARTY"

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL AND OPPOSITION PRESS SEPT 6 CARRIED AFP STORY REPORTING CREATION OF MAURITANIAN JUSTICE PARTY, A GROUP CHARACTERIZED AS CLANDESTINE OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH'S REGIME. ACCORDING TO MOROCCAN RADIO BROADCAST SEPT 6, FORMATION OF PARTY WAS ANNOUNCED IN PARIS BY MEMBER OF MAURITANIAN OPPOSITION. PARTY, WHICH AFP STORY SAYS IS MADE UP OF "NUMBER OF MAURITANIANS OF DIVERSE ETHNIC ORIGINS AND SOCIAL SITUATION", CALLED FOR CREATION OF A MOROCAN-MAURITANIAN-SENEGALESE FEDERATION AND ASKED "FRATERNAL PARTIES" (PARTIS FRERES) IN MOROCCO AND SENEGAL TO WORK FOR FORMATION OF SUCH A FEDERATION. PARTY'S COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT, HAD OULD DADDAH TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION VIEWS OF POLITICAL CURRENTS INTERESTED IN FEDERATION, SAHARA PROBLEM WOULD HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFERENT THAN IT IS TODAY. ISTIQLAL PRESS USED AFP ITEM AS

POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR STRONG ATTACK ON OULD DADDAH.

- 2. ON SEPT 7 SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY (MAP) ELABORATED ON AFP STORY. "TOP LEVEL MAURITANIANS LIVING IN PARIS", ACCORDING TO MAP, SAID THAT JUSTICE PARTY HAD EXISTED SINCE 1973 AND HAD NUMEROUS CELLS IN MAURITANIA AND SYMPATHIZERS EVEN IN THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION. MAURITANIA'S SURVIVAL, THESE SOURCES ASSERTED, RESTED ON CLOSE COLLABORATION IN ALL FIELDS WITH NEIGHBORS TO NORTH AND SOUTH, A COLLABORATION WHICH INHERENTLY REJECTS ADVENTURIST POLICIES OF OULD DADDAH AND OULD MOUKNASS.
- 3. JOURNALIST WHO KNOWS MAURITANIA WELL BELIEVES JUSTICE PARTY TO BE CREATION OF AHMED OULD BABA MESKI, WHO JOURNALIST SAYS IS FORMER MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. BABA MESKI WAS IMPRISONED FOR CORRUPTION FOR A TIME FOLLOWING HIS TOUR IN U.S. AND THEN TOOK REFUGE IN FRANCE. JOURNALIST'S ESTIMATE IS THAT BABA MESKI'S SUPPORT COMES ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM MAURITANIAN STUDENTS IN PARIS AND THAT JUSTICE PARTY HAS LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN MAURITANIA.
- 4. COMMENT: WE CANNOT ADD TO JOURNALIST'S ASSESSMENT OF JUSTICE PARTY. SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA, OF COURSE, ARE NOT ABOVE INFLATING AN INSIGNIFICANT POLITICAL HAPPENING WHEN IT SUITS GOM'S PURPOSES AND WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF JUSTICE PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE WITH MOROCCAN ENCOURAGEMENT. MAJOR PLAY GIVEN "PARTY" HERE IS GOOD INDICATION OF CURRENT POOR STATE OF MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS. NEUMANN

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